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## ASD FREEMAN'S CHINA TRIP CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

Q1 *Is it true that there is a high-level DoD trip to China being planned?*

A1 Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Security Affairs Chas Freeman will be leading a small delegation to China from October 31 to November 2, 1993. ASD Freeman will be discussing a number of bilateral and multilateral security issues with the People's Liberation Army. This military-to-military dialogue will allow the United States to address directly with the PLA several U.S. concerns. In addition, we believe this exchange of views can serve to build the mutual trust and understanding necessary to facilitate future cooperation on similar issues.

Q2 *What is the purpose of the trip to China by ASD Freeman?*

A2 ASD Freeman is going to China with a small DoD delegation to discuss both bilateral and multilateral security issues. Many issues of concern to us, such as arms proliferation, regional security problems, peacekeeping and China's strategic outlook, must be addressed directly with China's military. ASD Freeman hopes to have a dialogue on these issues and explore areas of common ground with the People's Liberation Army.

Q3 *Why are we beginning this contact with the PLA now? How can we reward the PLA with this visit after they sold the M-11 to Pakistan, shipped chemicals to Iran, and tested a nuclear weapon, and while China continues to violate human rights?*

A3 Strategically, China and the U.S. have many common interests. China is a member of the UN PermFive, a nuclear power, has a large army, has a great deal of influence in the Third World, and is a leading arms exporter. Economically, it is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, with the southern region combined with Hong Kong and Taiwan forming the most dynamic economy of the world. Americans can benefit greatly from economic opportunities in China. The PLA is one of the most influential institutions in that country, so dialogue with the PLA is in our interest and in the interest of stability in the world. The problems you mentioned are precisely the reason why we need to be in direct contact with the PLA.

Q4 *What specifically will ASD Freeman discuss with the PLA?*

A4 ASD Freeman will discuss several regional security issues with the PLA, such as the North Korea nuclear problem, Cambodia, the South China Sea, and the situation in South Asia, the Middle East, etc. He will explain directly to the PLA the benefits of adhering to international arms proliferation norms. He will also discuss peacekeeping with the PLA and defense conversion.

Q5 *Will ASD Freeman raise the M-11 issue?*

A5 Among the subjects which ASD Freeman will discuss with the Chinese is arms proliferation. So naturally the M-11 will be a discussion topic.

Q6 *What initiatives will ASD Freeman take to China?*

A6 ASD Freeman will discuss a small number of modest exchange opportunities with the Chinese. These will be in the areas of security dialogue/education, multilateral military fora/conferences, and working level contacts. They will be areas of mutual interest geared to promoting mutual understanding. In addition, he will be discussing a concept to exchange experiences with the PLA with regard to defense conversion. We do not contemplate a resumption of arms sales to the PLA.

Q7 *Could you tell us a little more about this defense conversion cooperation? Does this not benefit the PLA? Doesn't this cooperation run counter to the Tiananmen sanctions and the M-11 sanctions?*

A7 The U.S. is downsizing its military, and conversion of our military industrial base to civilian production is one of the President's top priorities. China has had a ten-year headstart on defense conversion, and there is a lot we can learn from China. There is also fertile ground for cooperation and business opportunities for American firms. So this cooperation is something which can have real mutual benefits. Finally, the more the Chinese convert their defense industry to producing civilian goods, the less arms they will sell to foreign customers, reducing the intensity of regional arms races, and that is in both China's and our interest. We know that the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (COSTIND) in China already is leading China's effort, and we want to set up an interagency committee in the U.S. led by DoD to discuss cooperation opportunities. We have no plans to have the scope of the defense conversion cooperation infringe on the sanctions you mentioned. We believe there is plenty to discuss and many things on which to cooperate without bumping up against these sanctions.

Q8 *Does this visit by ASD Freeman mean we are returning to "business as usual" with those who carried out the massacre at Tiananmen?*

A8 The short answer is "no". The world has changed tremendously since 1989. The Berlin Wall has crumbled, the Soviet Union no longer exists. We have a new relationship with the armed forces of Russia and many former adversaries. We are engaged in a number of very thorny issues around the

world, many of which require Chinese cooperation. We share a number of common interests. In a Post-Cold War global environment where problems are frequently solved through a multilateral cooperative effort, we need direct dialogue with Chinese Ministry of National Defense and the People's Liberation Army, with which we are likely to find ourselves cooperating in UN-sponsored peacekeeping. The PLA plays a large role within China on many matters of concern to us. A military dialogue is a normal part of an overall bilateral relationship, and such a relationship is consistent with the President's policy of working with China on matters of common interest, while addressing U.S. concerns in the areas of human rights, proliferation and trade. However, any new military contact in the future will be very different from that in pre-Tiananmen days. Both our goals and Chinese goals for a military relationship have changed vastly since that time to reflect the new challenges we face.

*Q9 Does this visit by ASD Freeman mean there is no longer a ban on high level military exchanges as declared by former President Bush on June 5, 1989?*

A9 This visit was approved because it is deemed that it is in the United States' interest to resume dialogue with the PLA at a high level to help resolve a number of bilateral and multilateral issues. It is the highest level DoD visit since Tiananmen, but in the last four years, we have maintained dialogue and contact at the working level with the PLA, through attaches of both countries and through occasional visits by lower ranking DoD officials to Beijing. We believe, however, that the level of dialogue must be elevated to enable us to make progress on many issues of common concern.